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H.R. 474, Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015

FLOOR SITUATION

On Monday, May 18, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 474](#), *the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015*, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 474 was introduced on January 22, 2015, by Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) and was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, which forwarded it to the full Committee by voice vote on April 16, 2015.

SUMMARY

H.R. 474 reauthorizes at current levels the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) through fiscal year 2020 and clarifies that homeless veterans participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development—VA Supported Housing program (HUD-VASH), and those transitioning from incarceration, are eligible for HVRP services.

BACKGROUND

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) has two goals. The first is to assist veterans in achieving meaningful employment, and the second is to assist in the development of a service delivery system to address the problems facing homeless veterans. Eligible grantee organizations are state and local Workforce Investment Boards, local public agencies, and both for profit and nonprofit organizations. Grantees receive funding for one year, with the possibility for two additional years of funding contingent on performance and fund availability.¹

HVRP grantee organizations provide services that include outreach, assistance in drafting a resume and preparing for interviews, job search assistance, subsidized trial employment, job training, and follow-up assistance after placement. Recipients of HVRP grants also provide supportive services not directly related to employment such as transportation, provision of assistance in finding housing, and referral for mental health treatment or substance abuse counseling.²

¹ See CRS Report—[“Veterans and Homelessness,”](#) March 25, 2015 at 31.

² Id.

The HVRP is currently authorized at \$50 million annually.

The HUD-VASH program is a joint effort between HUD and VA to move veterans and their families out of homelessness and into permanent housing. HUD provides housing assistance through its Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) that allows homeless veterans to rent privately-owned housing. VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services through its health care system across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.³

COST

A cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is currently unavailable.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jerry White](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 5-0190.

³ <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/HUD-VASH.asp>